

**Council on Aging Board Meeting  
September 14, 2005**

In Attendance:

Chairman Paul Keegan, Vice-Chairman Helene Tanenholtz, Board members Al Crommett, Lillian Goodman, Helen McLaughlin, Tim Swiss, and Secretary John Concordia. Director Sharon Yager was also present.

1. Chairman's Comments:

Paul opened the meeting at 10am. The minutes of the August 10 2005 meeting were reviewed and accepted by the board. A copy of the COA policy and procedures with the final approved comments of the town manager was distributed to the board.

2. Director's Comments:

Sharon distributed an updated copy of telephone numbers and addresses of COA staff and board members for inter-office use only. She noted that Attorney Chris Mehne will provide information in the October newsletter regarding new Elder Laws about Wills.

The MCOA conference will take place this week at Sturbridge.—staff and several board members will attend.

3. Liaison Reports:

*Friends of the SCC, Inc.*—Helene reported that the initial meeting for this year would occur on September 20th. The friends will be participating in the town's Fall Festival with the "Jail and Bail" booth and the "Busy Hands".

*Central MA Agency on Aging and the Shrewsbury Comm. Part. /Children:*--no report.

*Elder Services Inc., Worcester/Outreach*—Walter Rice joined the meeting for a few minutes to expand on his written report on activities for August. He indicated that fuel assistance requests are expected to increase because of the recent hike in fuel prices. Van ride requests have already increased probably for the same reason. Helene raised a question for Elder Services regarding compensation for care givers who provide at home care for family members/relatives. The report is available at the COA office.

3. Old business:

Sharon reported that the State Formula grant was approved with an increase of \$2,374.00 which will help a bit.

Lillian and Helene requested that the board consider the Health Care committee plan to form a standing COA Health committee of 5-7 members. A motion was made and approved for them to bring to the Board a draft of the mission and goals of such a committee which could be reviewed and implemented by the Board if appropriate.

4. New Business:

a. Sharon reported that the 2002 survey data was proceeding manually and a volunteer also is at work computerizing the data.

She mentioned that the Town had planned a walking program within the Employees Health & Wellness program.

b. The chairman has appointed Tim Swiss as chairman of a committee to review Transportation issues. John Concordia and Cynthia will assist One area of concern is the need for a maintenance plan for the third van for which the town has responsibility.

c. Selectman Maurice DePalo joined the meeting to listen to any Board concerns that he might help with from his position. A lively interchange took place with COA budget issues dominating. The importance of the outreach coordinator's position was emphasized as well as the value of the Newsletter in providing important information to seniors. The board agreed that it was a worthwhile exchange.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

***John Concordia***

Recording Secretary